

REMARKS

Claims 21-29 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 30 and 31 have been added. Original claims 1-20 have not been amended. Claims 1-20 and 30-31 are currently pending. Entry of the amendments, and reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 16, 21-23 and 25-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 5,647,784 to Moran ("Moran") in view of USP 5,211,593 to Schneider et al. ("Schneider") and USP 6,106,345 to Yeh ("Yeh"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8 and 16 are the only independent claims. Claims 1, 8 and 16 all recite, among other limitations, laminating a graphics layer to a binding layer, and laminating a clear protection layer on top of the graphics layer. The Examiner acknowledges that Moran does not disclose graphics layers "that are bonded to the outside of" respective binding layers, and relies on Schneider to disclose the provision of graphics layers. In addition, the Examiner acknowledges that Moran does not disclose protection layers bonded to the outside of the graphics layers, and relies on Yeh to disclose the provision of protection layers.

Unfortunately, **the Examiner's attempt to combine the teachings of Schneider and Yeh with the original teachings of Moran would not even yield all the limitations in claims 1, 8 and 16:**

1. Referring to column 3, line 59 to column 4, line 19 of Schneider, Schneider discloses imprinting graphics on the inside surface 46 of an outer sheet 42. This outer sheet 42 serves as the outermost layer of Schneider's board. Thus, Schneider does not teach a discrete graphics layer that is laminated to a separate binding layer.

2. Yeh teaches the provision of a protection layer 21 that is made of three separated strips that have different colors. See column 2, lines 38-41. Thus, Yeh does not disclose a clear protection layer.

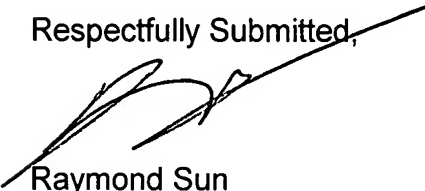
In addition, the combination of Schneider and Yeh with Moran is improper and would not lead a person skilled in the art to the claimed invention. In particular, the proposed combination would provide a colored protection layer that would obscure the graphics layer. Thus, a person skilled in the art would have no incentive to even attempt to use the protection layer in Yeh with the graphics-imprinted layer in Schneider on the board in Moran.

For the above reasons, any attempt to combine the teachings of Schneider and Yeh with the teachings of Moran is based on impermissible hindsight reconstruction.

Applicant has also added new independent claims 30 and 31. Claims 30 and 31 are the same as claims 1 and 8, respectively, except that they recite a body board consisting of (instead of comprising) the recited elements. It is respectfully submitted that claims 30 and 31 are not only allowable for the reasons set forth above, but further distinguishable over the combination of Moran, Schneider and Yeh, because such a combination would require the provision of additional layers (as disclosed in Moran, Schneider and Yeh) beyond the layers recited in these claims.

In light of the above reasons, claims 1, 8, 16, 30 and 31, and claims 2-7, 9-15 and 17-20 depending therefrom, are submitted to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any proposed amendments or informalities that can be resolved in a phone interview.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: August 9, 2005

By:



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